Rural Development Programme (IRDP) assists families below the poverty-line in rural areas through provision of income generation assets, Statement-I [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 58] indicates the targets and achievements of the No. of Beneficiaries under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during the three years of Seventh Five Year Plan. Statements-II and III [*See* Appendix CXLV Annexure No. 59. and No. 60 respectively] give the employment generated through National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during the first three years of Seventh Five Year Plan. The targets of employment generation have been achieved more than 100 per cent.

Frustration among the Scientists

1627. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been lot of frustration and disgruntlement among the scientific staff working in some of the CSIR Laboratories;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to redress the grievances of these scientists, particularly from the harrassment which has been meted out to them by the superior staff in the Laboratories; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the working conditions and organisation climate in these Laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir, we have no such reports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Recently a number of steps have been taken in the CSIR for improving the administrative set up and working conditions of scientists. The system of developing more administrative and financial autonomy to the Directors of the Laboratories/Institutes and working scientists has been introduced. In the new purchase procedure, introduced recently, bench level scientists have been given functional powers for execution of projects. Introduction of new merit promotion scheme is amongst the various steps taken to further improve the working conditions and organisational climate in the Laboratories. Amongst the steps taken recently for redressal of grievances is the extension of the Central Administrative Tribunal Act 1985 to CSIR.

Pre-1973 Pensions Schemes

1628. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give the benefit under liberalised pension scheme to the pre-1973 pensioners of Government; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) and (b) The Liberalised Pension Formula introduced w.e.f. 1st April, 1979 envisaged:

(i) Computation of pension by slab-system, and

(ii) enhancement of ceiling on pension from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 p.m.

The above benefits together with the reduction in the period reckoned for average emoluments from 36 months to 10 months have been extended to all pensioners including pre-1973 pensioners w.e.f. 1st April 1979.

India's efforts to resolve Kampuchean problem

1629. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any initiative to work out a political solution of Kampuchean problem; and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) India has been in touch with the concerned parties. It played a significant role in bringing about the first meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which broke the deadlock in efforts to resolve the Kampuchean problem.

Representatives of Foreign Firm dealing with Defence Departments

1630. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now no representatives of foreign firms dealing with Defence departments are allowed to represent their foreign principals, if so, since when this practice has been introduced;

(b) whether the department is finding it defficult to negotiate in the absence of local representatives and whether such a situation has any adverse effect on output or efficiency of the department if so, what detailed remedial measures, are considered by Government; and

(c) whether Government are reconsidering the issue of allowing local representatives of foreign firms to represent them, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) From 1980 onwards a series of instructions were issued to regulate the entry of retired Defence Services Officers, foreign suppliers and their Indian agents into the Defence Security Zone. The levels at which foreign suppliers/their agents could be met by officers of the Ministry of Defence, with the prior approval of the concerned Administrative Secretary, were also laid down. *Inter-alia*, it was decided that the Joint Secretaries in the Department of Defence concerned with commercial negotiations for the acquisition of weapons and systems would ensure that agents were disallowed from participation in negotiations which should be conducted directly with the foreign suppliers.

(b) and (c) A Committee had been set up under the chairmanship of the Defence Secretary to *inter-alia*, report on the *modus operandi* of foreign and Indian agents in defence purchases, to suggest necessary steps to eliminate such agents from defence transactions as well as to review and make suggestions regarding streamlining of the existing procedures. This Committee has since submitted its report which is under examination.

Merger of Non-Public Fund in Consolidated Fund of India in case of Air Force Unit run Canteens

1631. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that employees of Air Force Unit Run Canteens are not treated as Government Employees on the lines of the Canteen Stores Department Employees as decided by Government vide Ministry of Defence letter No. 8(5)/77/1352/D(MOV);

(b) whether the pay and allowances of Air Force Unit Run Canteen Employees are being disbursed from Non-Public Fund and if so, what are the reasons that the said amount is not merged into Consolidated Fund of India; and

(c) what are the reasons for not merging the Non-Public Fund in Consolidated Fund of India so that the various facilities being provided to air troops can be charged/adjusted against the profits earned by Air Force Unit Run Canteens after the merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The Unit Run Canteens are managed by the concerned units and are run for the welfare of the troops. The employees of these Unit Run Canteens are paid from the profits earned by the concerned canteen. Each canteen is a separate entity